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CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A system for automatically matching patients to clinical trials comprising:
 - 2 a database component operative to maintain:
 - 3 one or more hospital patient database components and
 - 4 their one or more hospital databases and their corresponding
 - 5 plurality of patient names and their medical records, wherein
 - 6 said hospital patient database components are in
 - 7 communication with one or more medical practice database
 - 8 components and their corresponding plurality of specialties
 - 9 and their corresponding plurality of patient names and their
 - 10 medical records,
 - 11 a clinical studies database component and its
 - 12 corresponding plurality of clinical studies;
 - 13 a communications component to receive changes to said database
 - 14 component; and
 - 15 a processor programmed to:
 - 16 periodically match compatible patients and clinical studies
 - 17 without reliance on calculation of probability based
 - 18 inferences of matching, and generate reports to matched
 - 19 medical practices in said medical practice database
 - 20 component having one or more patients matched to at least
 - 21 one clinical study.
- 1 2. The system according to claim 1, wherein:
 - 2 said database component identifies patient names associated with
 - 3 each medical practice in said medical practice database component; and
 - 4 said processor generates reports to medical practices having
 - 5 identified patients, said reports including a listing of prospective patients for
 - 6 at least one clinical trial.

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- 1 3. The system according to claim 1, further comprising:
 - 2 a searching component for searching said clinical studies database
 - 3 component, and said one or more hospital patient database components,
 - 4 wherein said communications component is adaptable to receive
 - 5 searching order instructions.

- 1 4. The system according to claim 3, wherein:
 - 2 said processor is programmed with a rule-based system to vary
 - 3 search parameter priority, wherein said search parameter priority is set to
 - 4 search free text keywords or a phrase in a specified order.

- 1 5. The system according to claim 4, wherein:
 - 2 said search parameter priority is set to search free text keywords or
 - 3 a phrase last.

- 1 6. The system according to claim 1 wherein said processor is further
2 programmed to convert database information from incompatible operating
3 systems to the operating system of the processor.

- 1 7. The system according to claim 1, wherein said clinical studies database
2 contains clinical trials selected from the group consisting of clinical drug
3 trials and clinical device trials.

- 1 8. A computerized method for matching patients to clinical medical studies
2 comprising:
 - 3 identifying a group of patients in a hospital database;
 - 4 identifying at least one clinical study;
 - 5 maintaining a database identifying each said patient in said hospital
 - 6 database and each said clinical study; and
 - 7 comparing said group of patients in said hospital database to said

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8 clinical studies and matching one or more patients in a hospital database to
9 one or more clinical trials without reliance on calculation of probability-
10 based inferences of matching.

- 1 9. The method according to claim 8, further comprising:
2 maintaining said database to include a plurality of patient profiles
3 associated with a corresponding medical practice; and
4 notifying a medical practice when at least one of said patient profiles
5 matches the requirements of said clinical studies.
- 1 10. The method according to claim 8, wherein said step of maintaining a
2 database further comprises converting data from an incompatible operating
3 system to the operating system of the processor.